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SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: David L. Yowell
or Sally Shank
(918) 493-3516

MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of July, 1986)

The number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters during July declined by twenty-two crews from the June total of 180. The land crew total declined by twenty-four; the marine crew total increased by two crews for a net decrease of twenty-two. July was the twelfth consecutive month the total number of crews has decreased. Not since the mid-1930's has the total number of seismic crews been in the 150 to 160-crew range.

The July total (158) represents a decrease of 12% from last month, a 60% decrease from July, 1985, a 70% decrease from July, 1984, a 67% decrease from July, 1983, a 73% decrease from July, 1982, a 78% decrease from July, 1981, and a decrease of 72% from the same month in 1980.

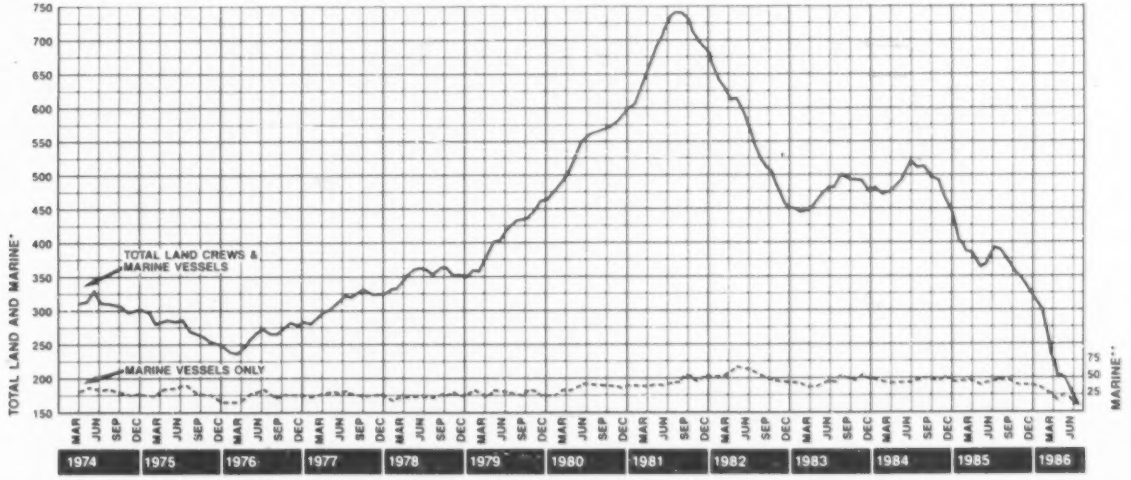
During July, four contractors were operating six of the 121 land crews and two of the seventeen vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month	Last Month	July'85	July'84	July'83	July'82	July'81	July'80
	158	180	397	529	483	593	711	556

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	July 1985	July 1984	July 1983	July 1982	July 1981	July 1980	This Mo.	Last Mo.	July 1985	July 1984	July 1983	July 1982	July 1981	July 1980
43 Contr's:	121	140	317	445	397	484	625	475	17	14	41	39	41	58	36	35
7 Oil Co's:	17	22	33	37	40	43	43	39	3	4	6	7	5	7	6	6
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Totals	138	162	350	482	437	527	668	514	20	18	47	47	46	66	43	42

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



*Use left hand vertical scale for Total Land Crews and Marine Vessels. **Use right hand vertical scale for Marine Vessels only.

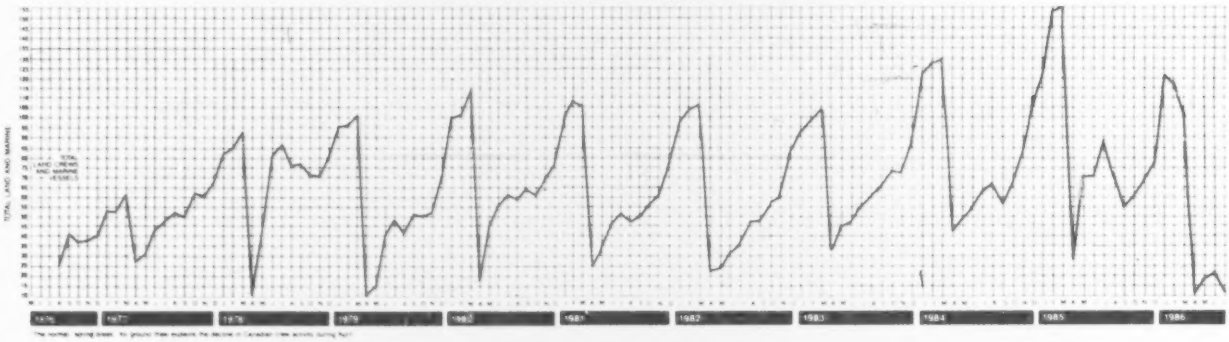
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

July, 1986 (June figures in parentheses)

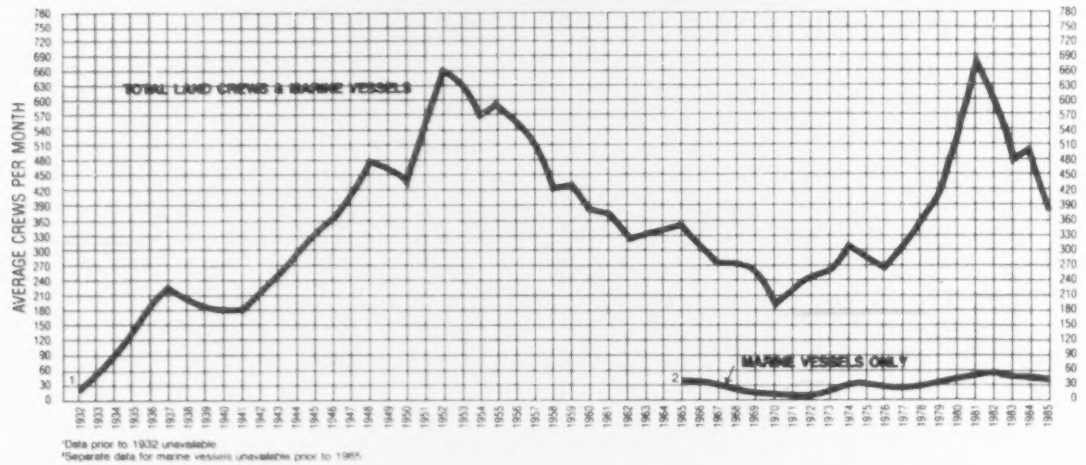
	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
8 Contractors:	10 (20)	1 (1)
1 Oil Company:	1 (1)	0 (0)
Totals:	11 (21)	1 (1)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(Seismic crews searching for oil & gas.)



[1]Data prior to 1932 unavailable.
[2]Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1955.